



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NINE NAMED SEMIFINALISTS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Nine outstanding teachers from around the state – three elementary school teachers, three middle school teachers and three high school teachers – are semifinalists for the Kentucky Teacher of the Year award, the Kentucky Department of Education and [Ashland Inc.](#) announced today.

Winners of the Elementary, Middle and High School Teacher of the Year awards, as well as the overall 2011 Kentucky Teacher of the Year, will be announced at a ceremony in Frankfort on October 19 in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building.

Competing for Elementary Teacher of the Year are:

- Catherine Caudill, Eastside Elementary, Harrison County
- Karen Fyffe, Highland Elementary, Johnson County
- Sarah Wilder, W.R. McNeill Elementary, Bowling Green Independent

Middle school semifinalists are:

- Ashley Forrest, Thomas Jefferson Middle, Jefferson County
- Gary Pearman, T.K. Stone Middle, Elizabethtown Independent
- Vanessa Wicinski, Thomas Jefferson Middle, Jefferson County

In the high school category, the semifinalists are:

- Julie Rash, Beechwood High, Beechwood Independent
- James Darrell Vincent, Bullitt East High, Bullitt County
- Erika Webb, East Jessamine High, Jessamine County

(more)

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The nine semifinalists were among 24 educators who earlier were named as 2011 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards (TAA) winners. They were chosen based on their scores from the first round of judging, which was conducted by a blue-ribbon panel of veteran educators. Applications included information on nominees' teaching philosophies, teaching experiences, involvement in their respective communities and letters of recommendation.

Classroom visits and personal interviews with each of the nine semifinalists will result in the selection of the 2011 Elementary School, Middle School and High School Teachers of the Year. A culmination of these scores results in the selection of the 2011 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. This individual then will represent Kentucky in the 2011 National Teacher of the Year competition.

Ashland will present the 24 TAA recipients with cash awards and certificates at the awards ceremony in Frankfort. In addition to their cash awards, the three Kentucky Teachers of the Year also will receive custom-designed glassware commemorating their accomplishments, and all 24 educators will be honored at a special luncheon that day.

The Kentucky Teacher Awards program combines the best elements of the Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards and the Kentucky Teacher of the Year programs. This marks the tenth year the Department of Education and Ashland have jointly honored Kentucky educators.

Ashland has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. More than \$600,000 has been awarded to nearly 400 teachers of grades K to 12.

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